

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-01

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB- VLTOMSETH:MFG

APPROVED BY EA/TB - GBROBERTS

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P 212201Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118990

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT: RAMASUN GATE INCIDENT

REF: A. STATE 099515; B. MACTHAI 190930Z MAY 75

1. THE CONTINUED RETENTION IN THAILAND OF ONE OF THE FOUR SERVICEMEN INVOLVED IN THE RAMASUN GATE INCIDENT (CAPT FACE) HAS ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF CONGRESSMAN WAGGONNER. WE HAVE BRIEFED THE CONGRESSMAN'S OFFICE ON THE BACKGROUND OF THIS CASE AND HAVE EXPLAINED THE ISSUES INVOLVED, AND WAGGONNER'S ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IS APPRECIATIVE OF THE PRINCIPLES WE ARE TRYING TO DEFEND. ACCORDING TO THE ASSISTANT, HOWEVER, FACE'S WIFE IS INCLINED TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF HER HUSBAND'S INABILITY TO PROCEED TO HIS NEXT ASSIGNMENT, AND THE CONGRESSMAN IS ANXIOUS TO HAVE ANY INFORMATION HE CAN USE TO PLACATE HER. IN ADDITION, HE IS SCHEDULED TO GIVE AN ADDRESS THIS FRIDAY IN THE TOWN WHERE MRS. FACE CURRENTLY RESIDES AND WOULD LIKE TO BE FULLY PREPARED TO ANSWER POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FROM HER AND/OR OTHER

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TOWNSPEOPLE.

2. WE ARE CONCERNED BY A STATEMENT IN REF B THAT RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS SURROUNDING THE SEIZURE OF THE MAYAGUEZ MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE EVEN TO HAZARD A GUESS AS TO WHEN THE RAMASUN GATE CASE WILL BE RESOLVED. AS WE NOTED

IN REF A, WE KEPT OUR PART OF THE BARGAIN WORKED OUT WITH THAI AUTHORITIES AND LUACHAI, AND WE EXPECT THE THAI TO KEEP THEIRS. IF A RESOLUTION IS AT HAND, WE CAN JUSTIFY THE CONTINUED RETENTION OF THE FOUR MEN IN THAILAND TO CONGRESS AND CONCERNED RELATIVES, BUT IF NO RESOLUTION IS IN SIGHT, WE BELIEVE THE MEN SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO DEPART THAILAND AND THE THAI INFORMED ONCE THEY HAVE LEFT. IN DOING SO, WE CAN POINT TO THE FACT THAT WE HAVE ACTED IN GOOD FAITH THROUGHOUT THIS WHOLE AFFAIR.

3. MORE IMMEDIATELY, HOWEVER, WE NEED BY THE OPENING OF BUSINESS FRIDAY A BRIEF REPORT ON THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE CASE AND YOUR BEST ESTIMATE OF WHEN THE FOUR SERVICEMEN CAN BE REMOVED FROM THAILAND WITH LEAST CONSEQUENCES FOR U.S. THAI RELATIONS. WE WILL PASS REPORT AND ESTIMATE TO CONGRESSMAN WAGGONER BEFORE HE MAKES HIS SPEECH LATER THAT DAY. INGERSOLL

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